

INDUSTRY & FRUGALITY

PROPOSED

As the surest Means to make us

A Rich and Flourishing

PEOPLE,

AND

The Linen Manufacture

RECOMMENDED

As tending to promote These among us.

WITH

Some cursory *Reflexions* on

CHARITY,

So far as it regards our Distributions to the POOR.

—cur—caræ
Non aliquid patriæ tanto emetiris acervo?

B O S T O N :

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Industry and Frugality

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A Rich and Flourishing People, &c.

THAT particular Branch of Benevolence which we call *Patriotism*, or the *Love of our Country*, may be look'd upon as one of the noblest Virtues that ever inhabited the human Breast. Where it has had Opportunity to exert itself in any considerable Degree, it has seldom fail'd to make those famous who have been possess'd of it. Public Reverence and Honours have been their Reward whilst living, and Statues and monumental Inscriptions have preserv'd their Memory when dead.

All Nations have, at some Time or other, cultivated and encouraged this Principle, because, at some Time or other, all Nations have reap'd the greatest Advantages from it. The Ancients, both *Greeks* and *Romans*, carry'd it to the highest Pitch. Among them, he was a happy Man who could devote himself to sure and speedy Destruction for the Good of his Country.

Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori

was a Lesson they were early taught, and which they never

never suffer'd to slide out of their Mind. While this Spirit prevail'd, those States, in which it did prevail, arose to be the most eminent in the World. The *public Good* was then the Aim of every Man: This was the Point in which all their Views center'd, and to which all their Actions were directed. But when they once came to lose Sight of *this Point*, and to look on themselves as so many Individuals, distinct from the Public, they soon set up and pursued particular Interests of their own, and the Public was always neglected and often sacrificed to these private Pursuits, when it came in Competition with them. Thus was their Union dissolved and their Strength dissipated. The Bundle became untied and those Arrows which, when united, could hardly be bent, now separate and single, were easily broken.

There never was a Time, perhaps, that call'd more loudly for the Exercise of this public Spirit, of which we have been speaking, than the present. But Thanks be to God, we have no Occasion to carry it so far as we see it has been carry'd in former Ages. The Good they purchased for *their* Country, at the Expence of their Lives, we may purchase for *ours* at a much cheaper Rate. A Part of our Wealth, and a small Part too, properly apply'd, will go a great Way towards removing the Difficulties which at present lie so heavy upon us. That we are under Difficulties, will be deny'd by none; by what Means we became so, may be disputed by many. Some may impute it to the Calamities of the late War, and our exerting Efforts above our Strength, in the several Expeditions in which we have been engaged. Some may charge it to the violent Shock our Trade has felt from the great and sudden Change in our Currency. Many
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and loud have been the Declamations on both these Topics; whether just or not, it is not my Business at present to enquire. Whatever the Means were that brought us into our Distress, and however we may differ in our Sentiments about these Means, we shall at least agree in this, that it will be doing us an acceptable Piece of Service to show us our Way out. Nor is this, perhaps, so hard a Task as some may be apt to imagine. The greatest Difficulty will be to persuade us to take this Way, when it is shown to us.

If we consider, with any Degree of Attention, the many Advantages we are still in Possession of, we shall find them such as will enable us to maintain the Superiority we have always held over the Provinces about us. In saying this and in enumerating these Advantages, I do not intend, as has been the Practice of some late *American* Writers, to disparage the Circumstances of our neighbouring Colonies; as tho' it was necessary to build our Prosperity on the Ruins of theirs; or at least to deface their Building to furnish Materials for the enlarging and embellishing our own. No; while we are happy, may they be so too. *Their* Felicity may add to, but can never pall or diminish *ours*. The more extensive Happiness is, the more it is tasted by a benevolent Mind, and could it be universal, to such a Mind it would be complete.

But while we neither envy nor despise the Advantages of others, let us be careful to improve our own. God has given us a pleasant Land and a fruitful one. He has not indeed seen fit to exempt it from the general Curse, which the Fall of our first Parents drew on the World; nor has he exempted us from our Share in that Curse. If we eat our Bread, we must eat it in the Sweat of our Face; and the Thorns

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and Thistles that our Fields bring forth to us, are not so much a Proof of the Ground's Barrenness as of our Sloth. We must reap our Corn before we can fill our Barns, and we must plough and sow before we can hope to reap. But if we will sit with folded Arms, expecting the Earth spontaneously to heap its Fruits in our Lap, we shall be, as it is fit we should be, certainly disappointed. We inhabit, as I have already said, a fertile Region. Our Land is good and, with proper Culture, capable of producing every Thing we want. It will yield us Hemp and Flax and every Kind of Corn. The Bread we fetch from abroad, we may find at home, and the vast Sums in Silver and Gold, or, which is the same Thing, in Bills of Exchange, which we send away to purchase it, may be kept among us. Our Pasture is inferior to none on the Continent, and our whole Country is plentifully supply'd with Springs and vein'd with Brooks and Rivulets of clear and wholesome Water. We have Wood-Lands well stock'd with Timber for Ship-Building, equal, at least, in Goodness to any that our southern Neighbours can boast of. We have fair and goodly Pines for Masts and Boards which, *under proper Restrictions*, may bring us considerable Riches; and we have Rivers to assist our Carriage to and from the inland Parts of the Province. We have many large and populous Towns on the Sea Coast, with capacious and safe Harbours for Ships, and every Thing convenient for Navigation and foreign Commerce. The Sea, the richest Mine in the World, is open to us, and presents us with an inexhaustible Source of Wealth. That Part of it that washes our Shore, is stored with all Kinds of Fish for our present Use, and for supplying the West India Markets; and we are well situated for carrying on the Cod and Whale Fishery to the greatest Advantage,

While we are thus surveying the Gifts that Nature has bestow'd upon us, with so liberal, I had almost said so lavish an Hand, can we believe ourselves to be poor? or if we really are so, can we own it without Blushing? I know very well, the Cry of Poverty has been for a long Time growing upon us. But I know too, that if we are now *poorer* than we were thirty Years ago, we are at the same Time *finer*. Our Ornaments have encreased with our Poverty; and if so, our Complaints must be vain. With an ill Grace must that Tradesman complain of hard Times and the Difficulty of getting a Livelihood, whose Wife and Daughters are cover'd with Scarlet and Velvet; or that Labourer, whose Table is every Day spread with the daintiest and most costly Provisions. I would not be here mistaken, as tho' I look'd upon this fair outward Shew, as an Evidence of our Riches. I think it a strong Symptom of the contrary; as it is a Proof that our Expences are great, while our Income is small. But what I mean to say is, that we ought to retrench our Finery before we complain of our Poverty. Otherwise we may still be poor and we may still complain, but our Complaints will never be heard, or if they are heard, will excite Indignation rather than Pity. But this is a tender Point, and I must pass lightly over it, because my Business is to persuade, not to provoke.

Nature, we see, has done enough for us; it is our Business to improve her Gifts. Let us increase our Industry and abate our Extravagance, and the Cry of Poverty will soon cease. I say, let us establish Industry and Frugality, and Prosperity will soon follow them. By these have the *weakest* States been raised to Wealth and Power, while the opposite Vices of Sloth and Luxury have sunk the most *opulent* ones into Poverty and Ruin. It would be wasting Time to de-

scend to particular Instances, because it is an Observation no Man can fail of making who has gone through but a few Pages of History, either ancient or modern. And Nature is constant and uniform; the same Cause, with the same Circumstances, will always produce the same Effect. What has preserved and aggrandiz'd others, will preserve and aggrandize us, and what has impoverish'd and ruin'd them, will impoverish and ruin us. Let us therefore shun Luxury and Sloth as the Rock on which they have split. Let us follow Industry and Frugality; these will lead us, as they have led them, to Wealth and Power.

The Number of those who are *really* poor, and who must be maintain'd by the public Alms, is indeed a great Burthen on the Province. But this Burthen lies heavier on some of our Towns than on others, and heaviest of all on our Metropolis, the Town of *Boston*. It is a Load they can neither bear nor shake off from their Shoulders. It seems to be increasing on them while their Strength is declining; and tho' they may for a Time stagger under it, they must sink at last, unless some Way be found either to alleviate their Burden or to recruit their Strength. Now whatever lessens the Number of their Poor will effect *one*, and whatever renders their Poor useful will effect *both*. This will be taking from the Weight of *one* Scale, and at the same Time adding to that of the *other*. When we cast a look into the Houses of our Poor, what Scenes of Distress do we often behold! Numbers of Wretches hungry and naked, shivering with Cold and, perhaps, languishing with Disease. But still they wear the human shape, and are Part of our own Species, and Humanity will not suffer them to perish. The Change of a few Circumstances, quite accidental as to us, might have lodged us in their cold Cottages and given them Possession of our comfortable Dwellings. Our Affluence

is not our Virtue, nor is their Poverty their Crime. Such Reflections as these must warm our Breasts with Compassion and excite us to do all we can to alleviate Miseries which might have been our own.

Very little need be said in Order to kindle this compassionate Temper towards the Poor. There are few Countries, perhaps none in the World, where it prevails in a greater Degree than among ourselves; and God forbid I should say any Thing to check it. No; may this laudable Spirit still prevail, and continue to be, as it has been, an Honour to us. But yet I may be allowed to say, that it requires Prudence to direct it to *right* Objects, and to regulate it, both as to the *Manner* and *Degree* in which we are to exercise it. And here it may be asserted in general, that *that* is a less beneficial Charity which maintains the Poor, than *that* which enables the Poor to maintain themselves. The latter is certainly less precarious, more diffuse and more lasting. The *former* is confined to *one* Object, the *latter* is extended to *many*, because it makes *that* Object useful to many. He therefore is more truly charitable who gives the Poor Employment, than he who gives them Money. He is a better Friend to the Community, he is a better Friend to the Poor themselves. Indeed where Age or Sickness or any other Infirmary, either of Body or Mind, has render'd the Poor unable to work, here we can have no Expectation from them. To these we must open our Hand freely, but we must open it with Discretion. We may be bountiful to them without being profuse. We may afford them the Necessaries, we may afford them the Comforts, without furnishing them with the Luxuries of Life. But when those apply to us for Alms, who are hearty and strong, and labour under no Malady but that of Laziness, we *may*, we *ought* to deny them. These are the very Persons, the Apostle tells us, *should not eat, because they will not*

work; and to feed and cloath such, while they continue idle, is rather to transgress than fulfil the Law of Charity. We may indeed be told by such Persons, that they cannot get Employment, and that they would be glad to work, if they could. This, I believe is not often really the Case. But if it has been so heretofore, it is like to be so no longer. A Scheme is now projected, by which a Door will be opened to let all our Poor into Employment; and Women and Children, who are our most common and idle Beggars, may now find Work proper for their Sex and Age.

I have often beheld, with Concern, the Swarms of Children, of both Sexes, that are continually strolling and playing about the Streets of our Metropolis, cloathed in Rags, and brought up in Idleness and Ignorance; and who most probably come, in a very short Time, from picking of Sticks to picking of Pockets. This is certainly a Disgrace to that great Town; and I have long wonder'd that no Remedy has been apply'd to so pernicious an Evil, and which, at the same Time, will so easily admit of a Cure. To this End nothing more is required, than bestowing a Power in some proper Persons, to take up such Children and (whether their unnatural Parents will or not) to place them out to such Trades or Employments as may in Time enable them to acquire an honest Subsistence. The Objection, that this would infringe the natural Rights of Mankind, is weak and frivolous. There are few Laws that do not, in some Way or other and in some Degree, affect these Rights, and every Man, that becomes a Member of any Community, gives up some Part of them. Without doing so, it is impossible for us to enjoy the Benefits of Society, or to reap any Advantage from the wisest and best Regulations. The *Athenians* were as free a People as any under the Sun. They knew the Worth of Liberty, and were jealous of it in the highest Degree.

Yet they, free as they were, had a Law that inflicted severe Penalties on Idleness. This Law was made by that wise Man *Solon*, and it empower'd certain Magistrates to call any Man before them, and to examine into his ordinary Expences and the Means by which he was enabled to support them. Far from looking on this as a Diminution of their Liberty, they submitted to it, as a wise Institution, and doubtless experienced the good Effect of it.

By the Scheme I just now mentioned, I mean *that* for introducing and establishing the *Linen Manufacture* among us. This is a noble Undertaking, and many and great are the Advantages the Province must reap from it, if it is vigorously supported and wisely managed. By taking off from the Number of our Poor, it will take off from our Burden, and by multiplying our useful Hands, it will add to our Strength. This will employ those that must otherwise be idle; and it will employ them at Seasons in which no other Employment can be follow'd. It will employ Multitudes, it will employ all, for it is a Business in no Danger of being overdone. I shall not attempt to compute what Quantity of Linen we import, nor what Sums are sent out in Payment for it. It is sufficient for my present Purpose, that it can be shewn that both these must be great. And to do this, we need only consider how constant and universal the Use of this Manufacture is. That our Beds, our Tables and our Bodies are covered with it; and that the greatest Part (and in a Manner all of any Fineness and Value) is brought to us from foreign Countries. This Consideration, I say, will suffice to show, that our Consumption is exceeding great, and that the Advantage of supplying ourselves must be so too, as it will employ great Numbers of Hands, and save among us great Sums of Money. It will, besides this, quicken our Demand for Flax, and thereby encourage our raising it

more generally and in greater Quantities: And the Seed of *this* will be a new and profitable Article for Exportation. Thus our Lands will be further improved, our Importation lessen'd and our Exportation encreased. It is an Undertaking therefore that deserves our utmost Attention, and Charity, bestow'd on this, is well bestow'd. A small Sum, given here, will diffuse its Benefit to hundreds. Let us not then repine at any Expence necessary to bring this important Project to Maturity. It is an Undertaking which, like all others, requires nursing in its Infancy. Let us be content to feed it in its weak State, it will soon be able to stand alone. It will thrive and gather Strength. It will maintain itself, it will maintain thousands; it will give us back, with Interest, what we now bestow on its Support, and will, in its Turn, support us, and enrich us.

It gives me, I confess, no small Pleasure to consider what Encouragement this great Undertaking has already met with, and how many Men of Character, and Ability are to be found among its Patrons. The *Gentlemen*, who have the more immediate Management of it, are hearty Friends to it, and in being so, are hearty Friends to their Country. They discharge their Trust with great Integrity and Success. A considerable Part of their Time is freely bestow'd on its Affairs, nor have their Purfes been shut when its particular Occasions have required them to be open. The *Subscribers* to it are numerous, and among them are many who punctually and chearfully pay their Subscriptions, as all would doubtless do, if they would give themselves Time to consider the many Benefits arising from it. And here with Gratitude, I must mention the generous Donation of an *ingenious Gentleman* in a neighbouring Province, whose Benevolence extends to Mankind in general, and to whom Mankind in general are under the greatest Obligations. Our Metropolis, the Town of

of *Boston* is well disposed towards it. Of this they have given a sensible Proof, at their general Meeting in *March*, by the free Loan of a considerable Sum of Money, to be improved in this Manufacture. And I heartily wish proper Application was made to our Legislature, for their Favour and Assistance. The *Fathers of our Country* would surely encourage what is so evidently beneficial to it, and their Wisdom would suggest the Manner and Degree in which this Encouragement ought to be given.

Nor must I, by any Means, forget the liberal Benefaction of the *Ladies*, by which the Managers have been enabled to open a new School, where Spinning will be taught our female Youth, and where poor Children will be provided with Wheels and other Utensils without any Charge or Expence to their Parents. This is a truly useful and extensive Charity, and you who have contributed to it cannot fail of your Reward; a Reward that may more properly be said to be multiply'd to you, than divided among you. How great must your Satisfaction be to visit your School! for yours it now is. There to see a Number of modest Maidens, furnish'd with the Means of gaining an honest Livelihood, who must otherwise, perhaps, have eat their Bread at the Expence of their Innocence, and having once enter'd upon a Course of Vice, must have gone on in the same, during a Life continually increasing in Wretchedness, because continually increasing in Guilt. Behold these now earning, instead of begging their daily Bread. Earning it, not as the Wages of Iniquity, but as the Fruits of a laudable Industry. These you have transplanted from Penury and Want, to a decent Competence. You have rescued them from Vice, by snatching them from the Temptations to Vice. You have delivered them from Misery in *this* World, and perhaps laid the Foundation of their Happiness in the

the *next*. How happy must you be in these Reflexions! They must surely give you the most refined Pleasures; Pleasures suited to a rational Mind, which will never satiate, and which you can never indulge to Excess. And yet how many are there that have it in their Power to be thus happy! The same well disposed Charity will afford the same Reflexions, and these Reflexions the same Happiness.

Thus has this Scheme been hitherto encouraged. Let us not suffer our Zeal for it to abate. Let us rather exert ourselves with double Vigour for its Support, since the Welfare of our Country is so deeply concerned in its Success. It is *this* that will make us industrious and frugal, and till we are so, we may project ten thousand Means for our Relief, they will all prove ineffectual. Let us improve our Lands to the utmost. Let these supply us with Corn for the Bread we eat, and with Flax for the Linen we wear, and at the same Time, let us retrench some of our unnecessary Expences, and we must, even under all our other Disadvantages, soon become a rich and flourishing People. I therefore repeat it again, and I wish I could repeat it till it was universally believed, let us banish Luxury and Sloth; let a Spirit of Industry and Frugality prevail, especially among the Poor; and let every Scheme that has a Tendency to introduce and confirm this Spirit among them, be assisted and encouraged by the Rich; then, and not till then, shall the State of our Affairs change for the better, and a new and lovely Scene shall open to our View. Our Trees shall bend beneath their Load, and our Fields and Pastures shall be cloathed with Corn and Grass. Our Barns shall be filled with the Fruits of the Earth, and our Flocks and Herds shall be multiply'd exceedingly. In our Towns, Trade and Commerce, especially the most profitable Branches of them, shall revive and flourish, and the busy Hand of Industry

Industry shall be every where in Motion. Our Tradesmen shall no longer complain for Want of Work, nor for Want of their Money when their Work is done. The chearful Labourer shall sing over his daily Task, because he will be sure of his Wages, and his Employer shall punctually pay these Wages, because he will be sure they were earned. A general Satisfaction shall run through all Ranks of Men; good Offices shall become reciprocal and common; the Rich shall be better serv'd and the Poor better paid.

And what Heart would not leap at such a Prospect! What Hand would not contribute to the Purchase of it! A Prospect, not like others to be obscured by Mists and Clouds, and which at best, by being often view'd, become indifferent, perhaps tiresome, to the Eye. This, on the contrary, will be ever improving; it will brighten with Time, and be continually presenting us with fresh Beauties, and fresh Delights. Happy is the Eye that shall behold it, but happier the Hand that shall be instrumental in procuring it.

